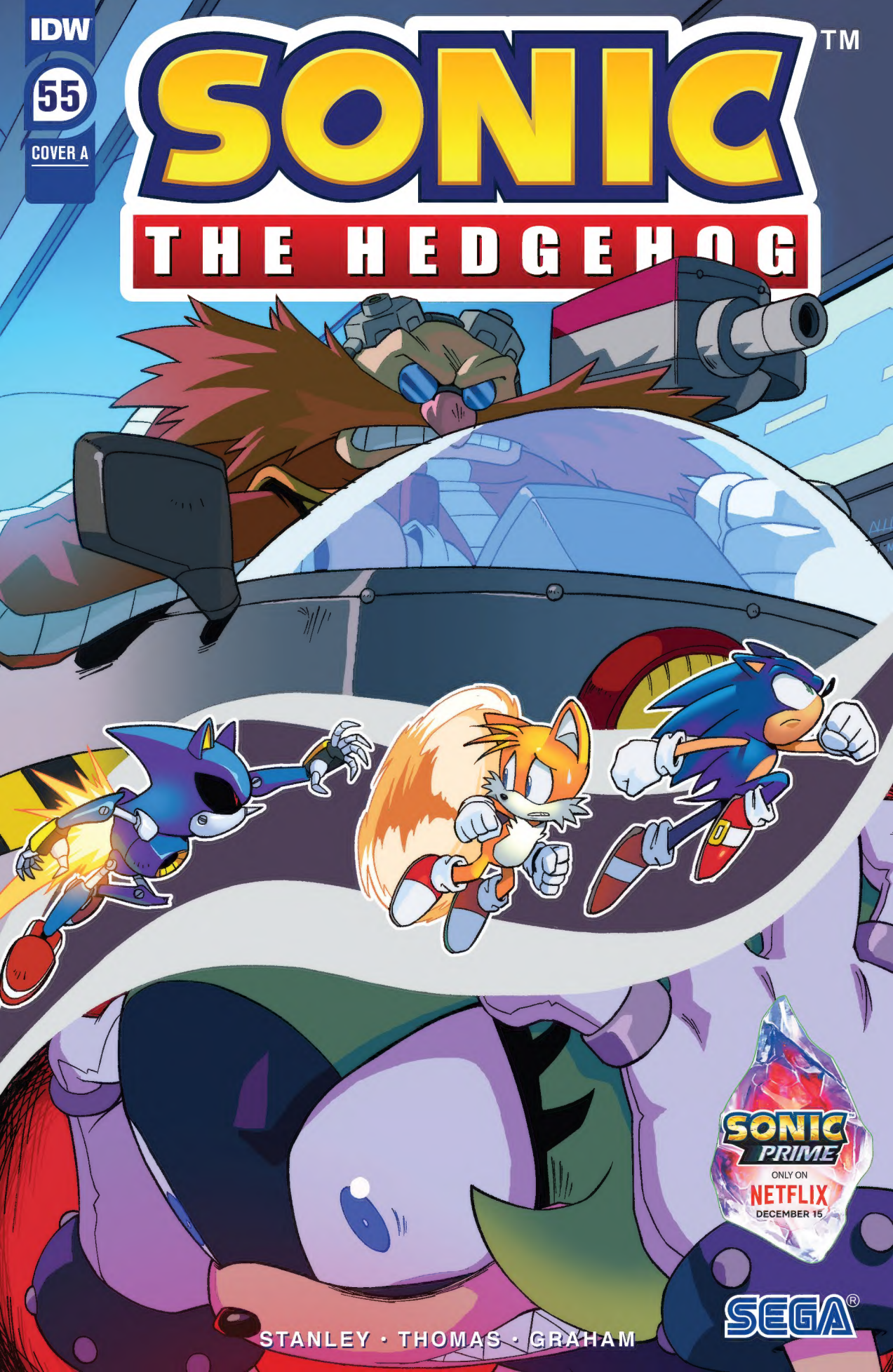
IDW

55

COVER A

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG



STANLEY · THOMAS · GRAHAM

SEGA®

STORY
EVAN STANLEY

ART
ADAM BRYCE THOMAS

COLORS
REGGIE GRAHAM

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

EDITORS
RILEY FARMER
DAVID MARIOTTE

Special thanks to Mai Kiyotaki, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, Sonic Team, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.

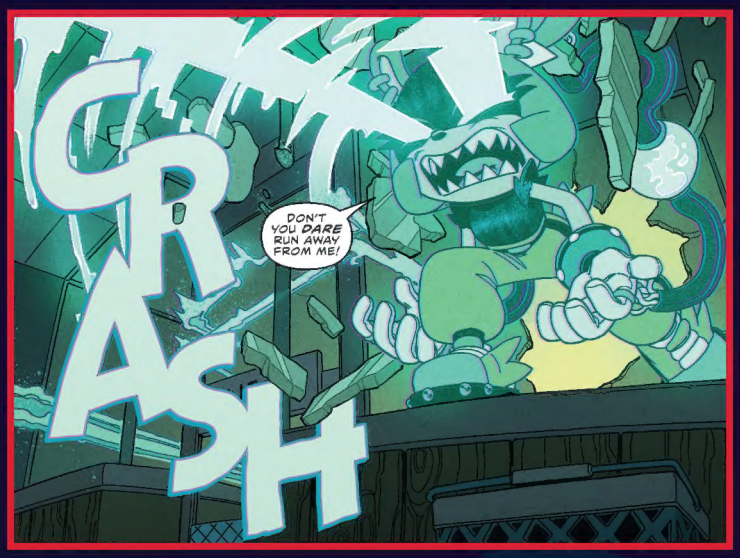
IDW®
@IDWpublishing
IDWpublishing.com

For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com.
Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #55. NOVEMBER 2022. FIRST PRINTING. © SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA and SONIC THE HEDGEHOG are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2355 Northside Drive, Suite 140, San Diego, CA 92108. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.
Printed in Canada.

Machie Marsham, Publisher
Blake Kobashigawa, SVP Sales, Marketing & Strategy
Mark Doyle, VP Editorial & Creative Strategy
Tara McGillis, VP Publishing Operations
Anna Morrow, VP Marketing & Publicity
Alex Hargett, VP Sales
Jamie S. Rich, Executive Editorial Director
Scott Dunbier, Director, Special Projects
Greg Gustin, Sr. Director, Content Strategy
Kevin Schwoer, Sr. Director of Talent Relations

Lauren LePera, Sr. Managing Editor
Keith Davidsen, Director, Marketing & PR
Topher Alford, Sr. Digital Marketing Manager
Patrick O'Connell, Sr. Manager, Direct Market Sales
Shauna Monteforte, Sr. Director of Manufacturing Operations
Greg Foreman, Director DTC Sales & Operations
Nathan Widick, Director of Design
Neil Uyetake, Sr. Art Director, Design & Production
Shawn Lee, Art Director, Design & Production
Jack Rivera, Art Director, Marketing

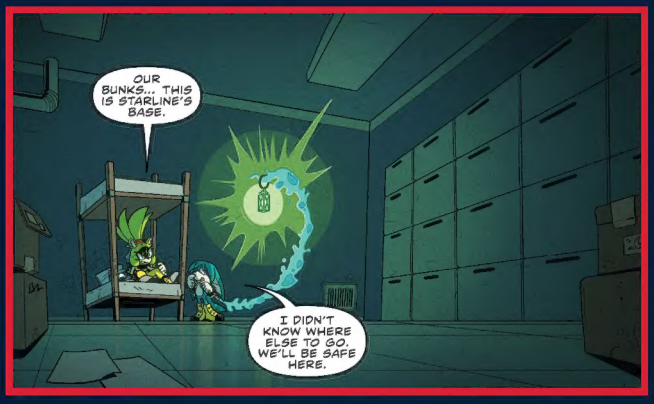

CRASH
DON'T YOU DARE RUN AWAY FROM ME!

SORRY IN ADVANCE, 'CAUSE THIS IS GONNA HURT!
ZZZ ZZZAK
AAAH!

STORY SO FAR

NO!
IT WAS YOU. YOU LIED!
YOU COULDN'T DO IT THE FIRST TIME, AND YOU WERE GOING TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED!

DON'T FOLLOW US.


OUR BUNKS... THIS IS STARLINE'S BASE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO GO. WE'LL BE SAFE HERE.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest thing alive.

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
Tech-Savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.

DR. EGGMAN
Mad Genius.
Egg enthusiast.

METAL SONIC
Loyal Minion.
Mechanical menace.

SURGE THE TENREC
The Mean Green.
Roguish speedster.

KITSUNAMI "KIT" THE FENNEC
Sorrowful Sidekick.
High-flying hyrdromancer.

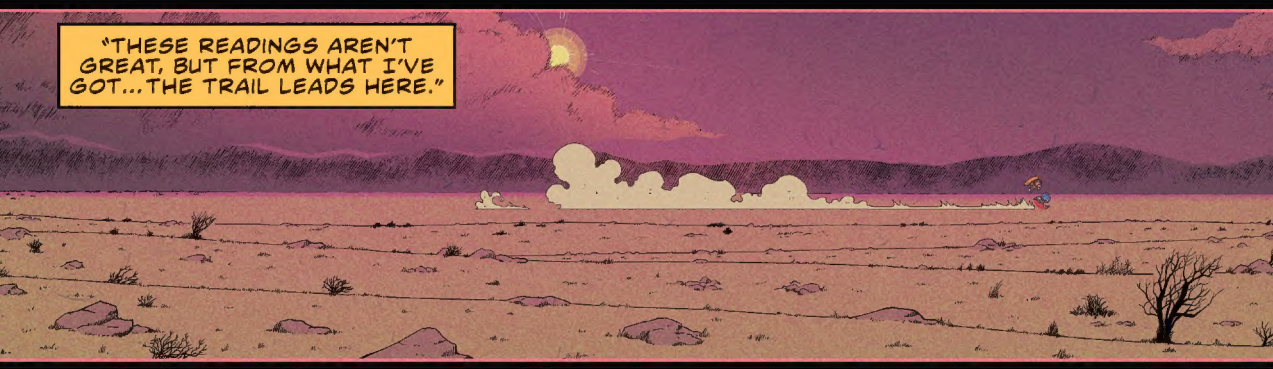
THAT'S EVERYTHING IN THE BASE, ROUTED TO YOU.

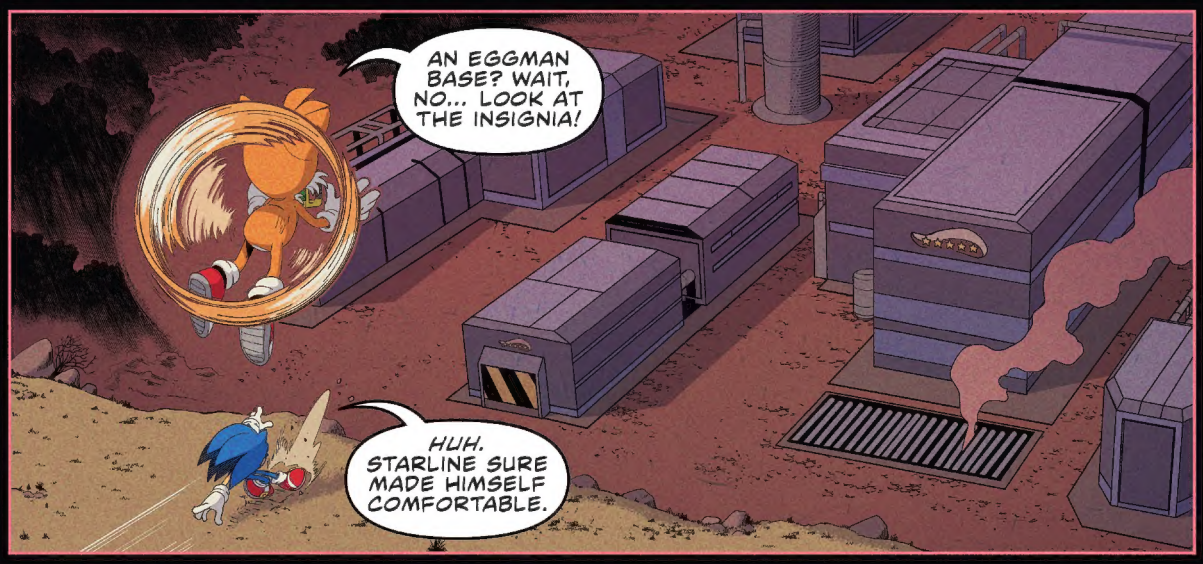
EH?
OH. SORRY... THE BREAKER WAS OVERLOADED. UNTIL IT RESTARTS, WE'RE ON EMERGENCY POWER.

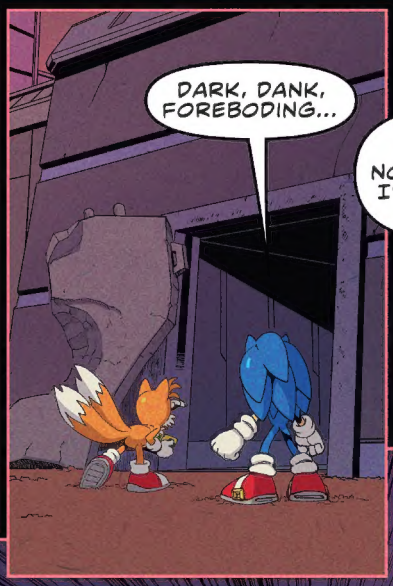
UGH, FINE. IT'LL DO FOR NOW.
GOTTA BE READY. SONIC WON'T LEAVE US ALONE, SO LONG AS WE'RE NOT MARCHING IN LOCKSTEP WITH HIM.

W-WE COULD RUN, OR HIDE...
NO. THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS.

IT'S THEIR FAULT THAT WE'RE HERE, AND WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THEM PAY FOR IT.


"THESE READINGS AREN'T GREAT, BUT FROM WHAT I'VE GOT...THE TRAIL LEADS HERE."


AN EGGMAN BASE? WAIT, NO... LOOK AT THE INSIGNIA!
HUH. STARLINE SURE MADE HIMSELF COMFORTABLE.


DARK, DANK, FOREBODING...

IF THEY'RE NOT IN HERE, I'LL EAT MY SHOE.

SHRRRR
?

SONIC!

I'M COMING!
BLAST IT, METAL! I DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD RUN OFF!
TROMP TROMP
MkII
GET BACK HERE THIS INSTA--
OH.
I TAKE IT YOU'RE HERE WITH THE RAT.
SO METAL JUST WENT AFTER...?
TROMP TROMP TROMP
EVC

THAT CERTAINLY WAS SOMETHING BACK IN EGGHEAD'S CITY. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU THAT MAD IN A WHILE.
BUT YOU STILL PUT ON THE BRAKES FOR BELLE, JUST FOR A SECOND...
...YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT THAT?
WHAM
SORRY I'M LATE, RAN INTO EGGMAN!
KATANG
HE'S HERE? FIGURES. ALL RIGHT, GO TIME!
METAL, I'M NOT GIVING UP ON YOU YET!

MOMENTS EARLIER...
SLOW DOWN, WILL YOU?!
ALWAYS WITH THE RUNNING...
...FINE, A SHORTCUT IT IS.
GAH! THAT PLATYPUS WENT AND MADE MODIFICATIONS TO MY FLAWLESS FLOOR PLAN?! WHAT A HASSLE.
AT LEAST I CAN STILL TRACK THE DYNAMO CAGE'S LOCATION.
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT... HOW CAN IT BE RIGHT ON TOP OF--
SKYOW

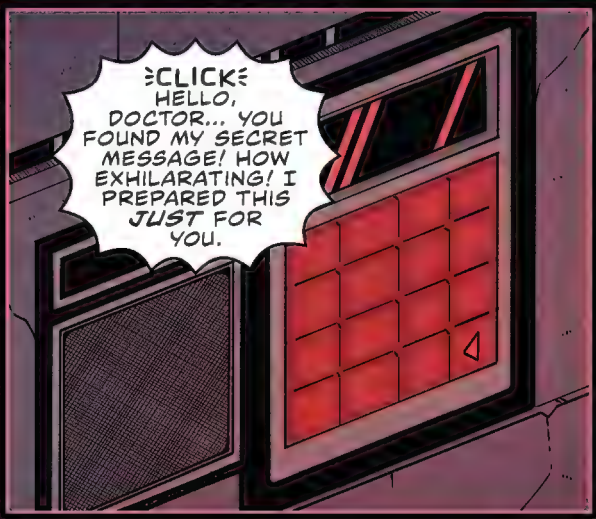
GAH!
BAD NEWS, OLD MAN. I'M NOT LETTING YOU OFF EASY THIS TIME.
GET OFF MY MACHINE!
WHAM
ROBOTS! HOLD HER DOWN!
JATT

DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT WOULD STOP ME?
OF COURSE NOT! I JUST NEEDED A MOMENT TO PREPARE...
...THIS!
CLK
CHUNK
BUDDA-BUDDA-BOOM

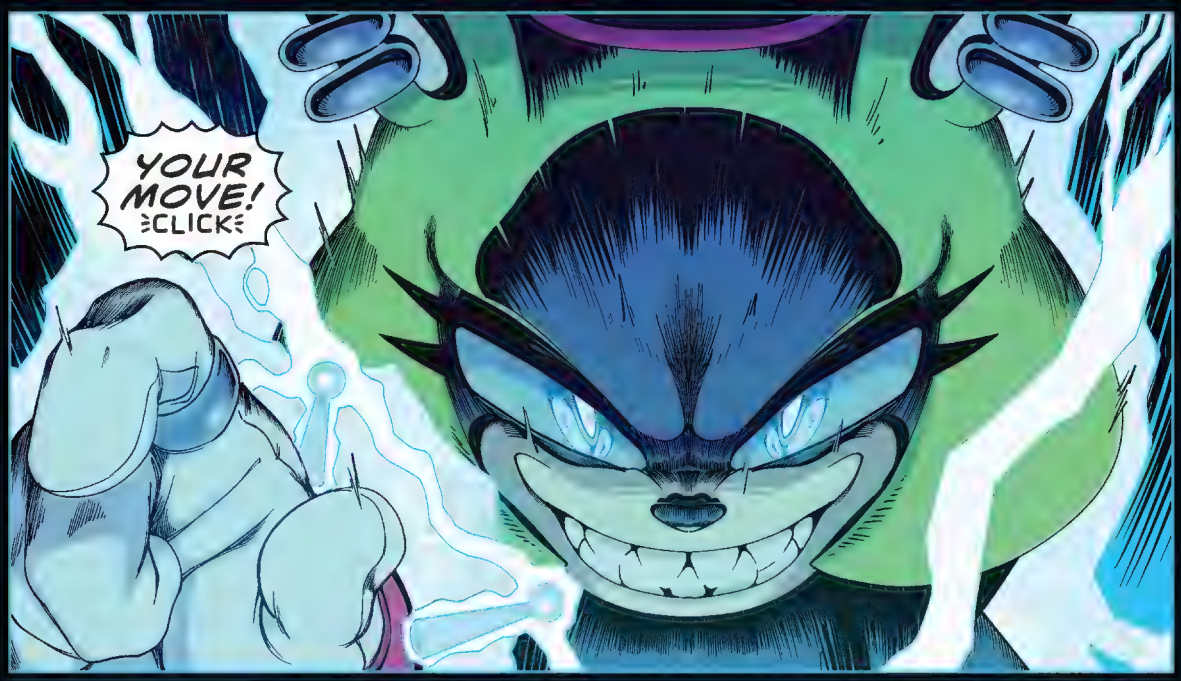
CUTE, VERY CUTE--
THOOM
EVC
EVC
AAH!
HA! DON'T TRY TO OUTWIT ME, GIRL!
RRR...
RAAAR!

OOF!
WUMP-BUMP
MORE. NEED MORE...
YES.
CRACK
BIP
BIP
BIP
IF I'M NOT CAREFUL, SHE'S GOING TO TURN ME INTO MINCEMEAT!
GOOD THING I CAME PREPARED.
BEEP
STARLINE MAY HAVE PUT HIS NAME ON IT, BUT THIS IS MY BASE! I'M SURE HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MY PRIVATE ACCESS CODES.

WELL, THIS HAS BEEN *FUN*, BUT I'VE GOT A STRATEGICALLY PLACED ESCAPE HATCH TO CATCH! *TA-TA!*


CLICK
HELLO, DOCTOR... YOU FOUND MY SECRET MESSAGE! HOW EXHILARATING! I PREPARED THIS *JUST* FOR YOU.

WH-STARLINE?!
I'M AFRAID YOUR LITTLE "CHEAT CODES" WEREN'T AS WELL HIDDEN AS YOU THOUGHT.
THIS IS MY BASE, AND I'LL BE MAKING THE RULES.

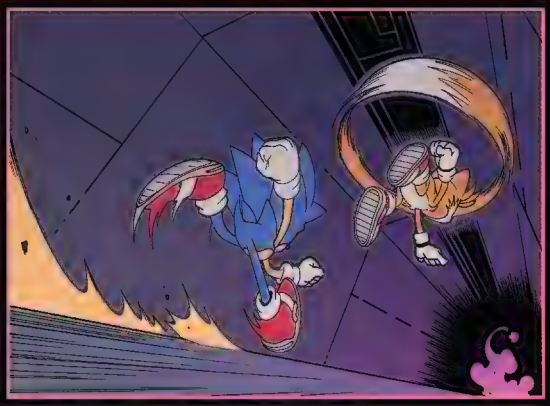

YOUR MOVE!
CLICK

EEYAGH!
STAY BACK, YOU FIEND!

THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.
DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN, HUH, BUDDY?

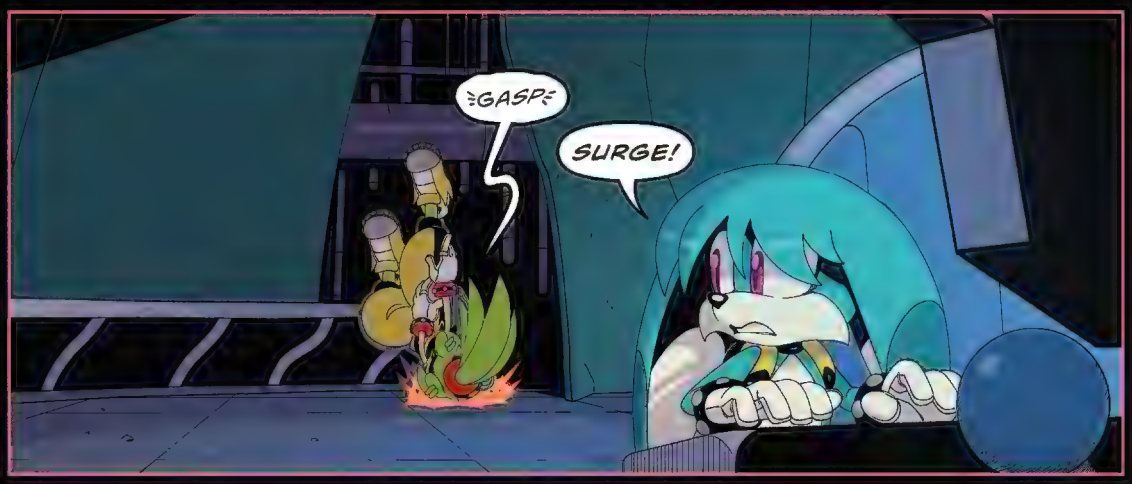
BWOOSH

SONIC, IF SURGE IS THERE...
YUP. LIKE IT OR NOT, WE GOTTA GO, TOO.



N-NOW LET'S BE REASONABLE! I HAVE A LOT OF RESOURCES AT MY DISPOSAL AND CAN ALWAYS USE, AH, MOTIVATED INDIVIDUALS LIKE YOURSELF IN MY EMPLOY...
THWAK
YOU GENIUS TYPES NEVER KNOW WHEN TO SHUT UP, DO YA? MAYBE YOU'LL STOP ONCE I KNOCK YOUR TEETH IN.
WHAM
FINALLY!
YOU THINK YOUR PET ROBOT CAN TAKE ME?
I'VE CHEWED THROUGH MORE OF YOUR RUST BUCKETS THAN I CAN COUNT!
SKIIII

ANY OTHER UNFOUNDED BOASTS YOU'D LIKE TO BLURT OUT? I'M ALL EARS.
RRGH!
DON'T MAKE THIS ANY HARDER THAN IT NEEDS TO BE, SURGE.
NO!
SEE ANYTHING, TAILS?
NOPE... I THINK SHE'S GONE.
THEY'RE WORKING TOGETHER.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW STRONG I GET. THEY'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY TO HURT ME.
HURT US.


GASP
SURGE!

I'M NOT ENOUGH. NEVER ENOUGH, NEVER--

I--I COULDN'T FIND YOU ON THE CAMERAS. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
...

EGGMAN AND SONIC ARE WORKING TOGETHER. THE PLAN...IT'LL STILL WORK. IT HAS TO.
IS EVERYTHING READY?

UH-HUH. I'VE LOCKED DOWN ALL OTHER ROUTES IN THE BASE.

"THEY HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO."

OKAY, EGGMAN, I'M GONNA NEED AN EXPLANATION OR ELSE I'M PICKING UP WHERE SURGE LEFT OFF.

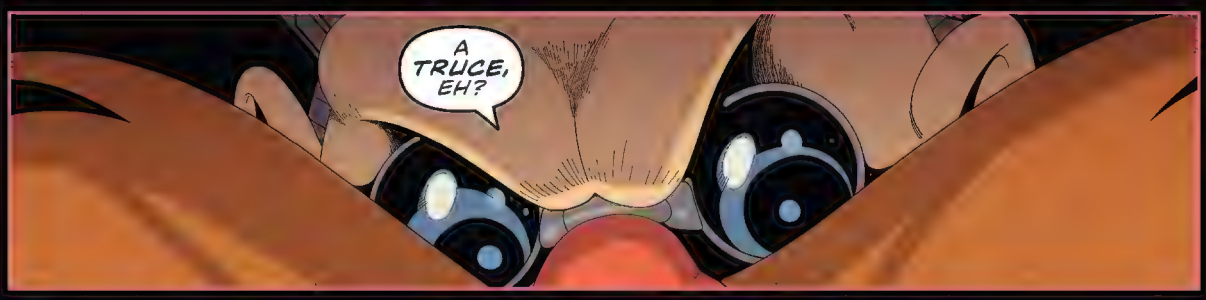
THE NERVE! I'M THE VICTIM HERE! SHE STOLE MY DYNAMO CAGE. IT'S A UNIQUE, EXTREMELY DANGEROUS DEVICE!
I'M ONLY HERE TO RECLAIM MY PROPERTY.
SO THAT'S WHAT THE FANCY HAT'S ALL ABOUT.
IT'S NOT A HAT!

GIMME TWO SECONDS TO CONSULT WITH MY ASSOCIATE.
SUIT YOURSELF. I NEED A BREATHER ANYWAY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE METAL, BUT WE STILL NEED TO DEAL WITH SURGE.
FIGHTING BOTH OF THEM IS A MAJOR RISK.

YEAH... AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO THROW DOWN, SURGE IS A BIGGER PRIORITY RIGHT NOW.
EGGMAN WANTS HIS TOY BACK, BUT I'M SURE I CAN "ACCIDENTALLY" SMASH IT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE.

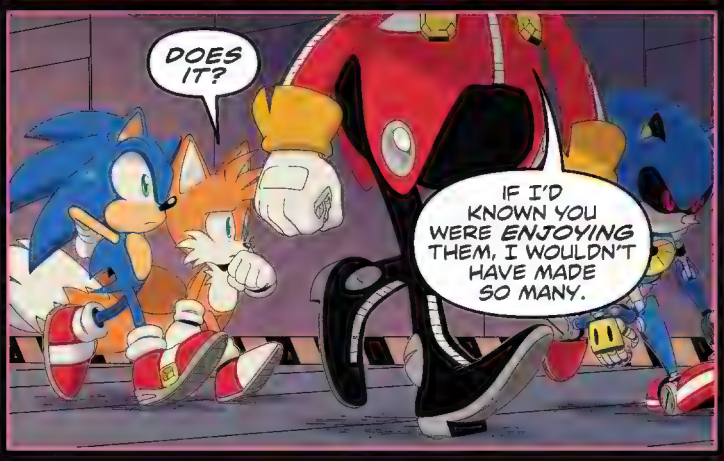
ALL RIGHT, EGGMAN!
WE'LL HELP YOU HANDLE SURGE, AND YOU AND METAL WON'T START ANYTHING TILL WE'RE ALL OUT OF THIS DUMP. DEAL?


A TRUCE, EH?

ABSOLUTELY! OF COURSE, METAL SONIC COULD HANDLE THE SITUATION, BUT YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE QUITE USEFUL.

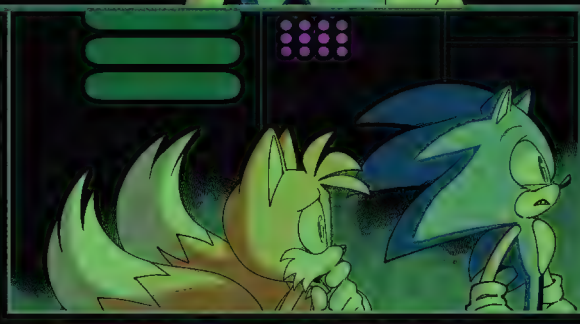
I'LL BE WATCHING YOU.
AND I'LL ABSOLUTELY CRUSH YOU... EVENTUALLY.

JUDGING BY MY MAP, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY THAT'S OPEN FOR US TO GO.
OOH, A TRAP! SOUNDS LIKE FUN.

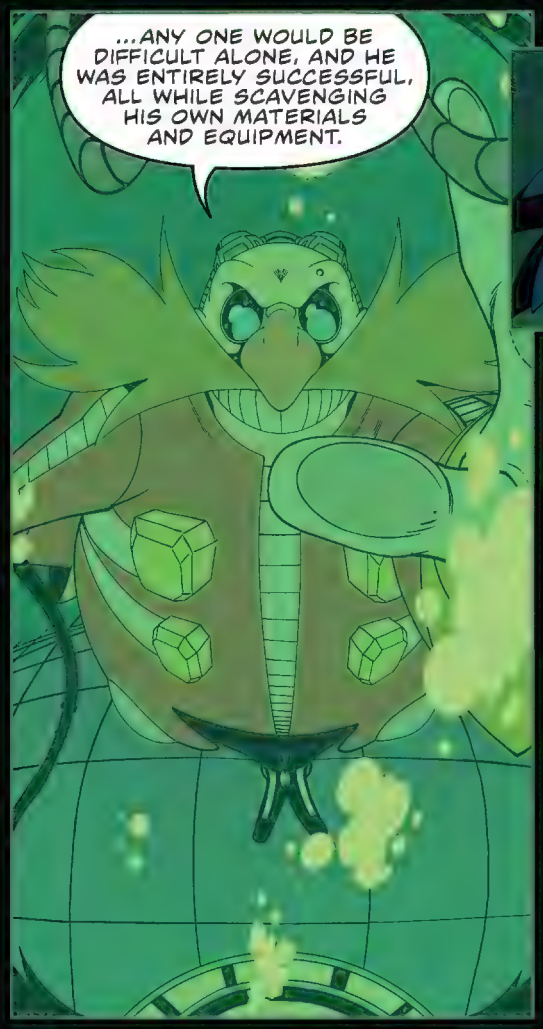

DOES IT?
IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE ENJOYING THEM, I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE SO MANY.

DO YOU THINK SHE'S FOLLOWING US?
IF SHE IS, IT'S LIKELY SHE'LL ATTACK YOU TWO FIRST. LESS VISIBILITY.
AND IF SHE HAS ANY SENSE--WHICH IS DEBATABLE--SHE KNOWS METAL AND I WON'T COME TO YOUR AID.
GEE. THIS TEAM-UP JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER.
...WHOA.
WAIT, THIS IS...
HE WAS PROCESSING DATA ON OUR LIVES... TRYING TO IDENTIFY A PATTERN.
CREEPY. BUT WHY?
"SPIN DASH"
"HOMING ATTACK"
I THINK...
...SO HE COULD MAKE THEM.
MAKE US...BUT FOLLOWING HIS DESIGN.

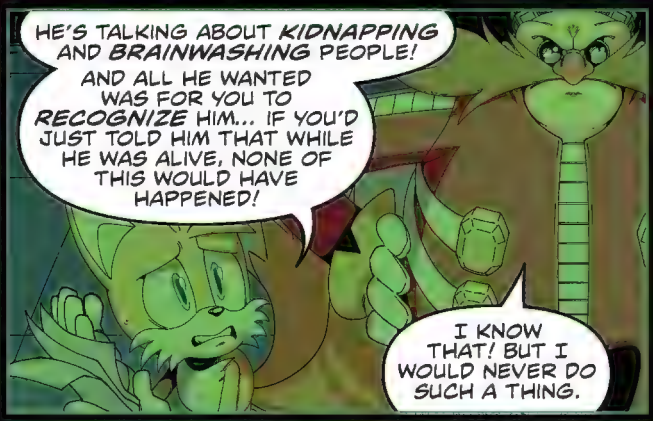
HE... MADE THEM.



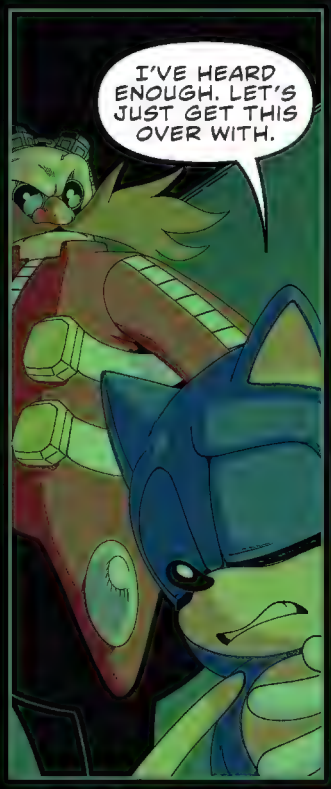
INDEED. BIOMODIFICATIONS, CYBERNETIC AUGMENTATION, NEURAL CONDITIONING...

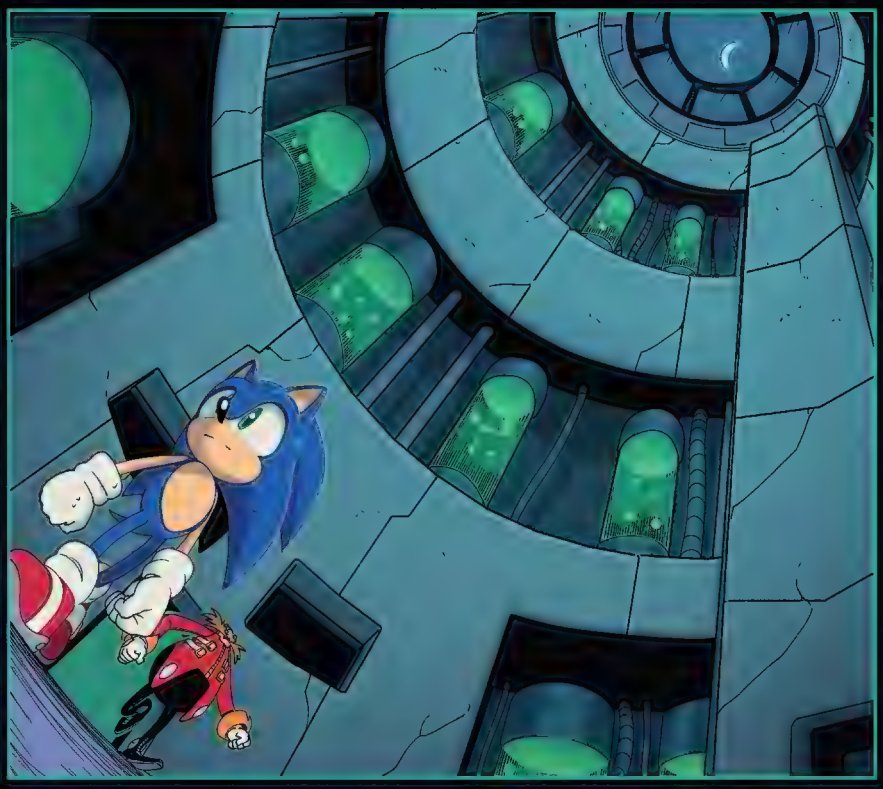

...ANY ONE WOULD BE DIFFICULT ALONE, AND HE WAS ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL, ALL WHILE SCAVENGING HIS OWN MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT.

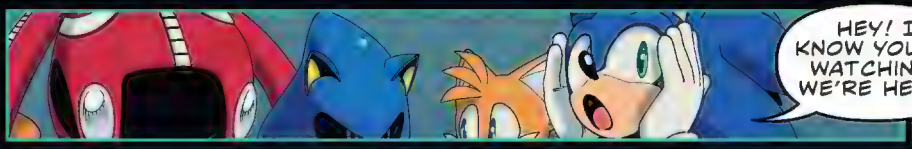
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY YOU WERE IMPRESSED.
OH, I AM. IT'S A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT! DR. STARLINE POSSESSED ONE OF THE FINEST MINDS I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.


HE'S TALKING ABOUT KIDNAPPING AND BRAINWASHING PEOPLE!
AND ALL HE WANTED WAS FOR YOU TO RECOGNIZE HIM... IF YOU'D JUST TOLD HIM THAT WHILE HE WAS ALIVE, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!
I KNOW THAT! BUT I WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING.

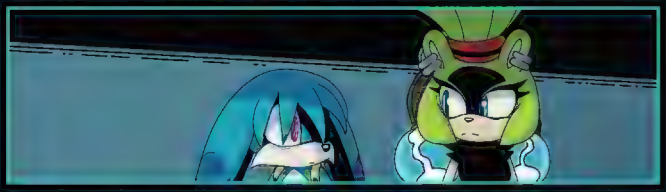
YOU JUST DID!
NOT AT ALL. ADMITTING THE SKILL OF A BESTED ENEMY ONLY PROVES MY BRILLIANCE.


I'VE HEARD ENOUGH. LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH.




HEY! I KNOW YOU'RE WATCHING! WE'RE HERE!

LISTEN, I DON'T WANNA FIGHT YOU GUYS. HAND OVER THE DOOHICKEY, AND WE CAN ALL WALK AWAY.



TOO BAD IT'S NOT UP TO YOU, THEN.

KZZZAK
NEXT TIME:
FIGHT!

NEXT MONTH

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Greetings, Sonic Squad! Big oof. You know it's bad if Sonic and Eggman are teaming up, huh? Thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Adam Bryce Thomas, Reggie Graham, and Shawn Lee for issue #55! Now, let's check out your letters and art, and get to know a bit more about artist Aaron Hammerstrom!

ART BY
BRODERICK

ART BY
BEN

ART BY
CLODAGH

ART BY
KYLE

CREATOR CORNER:
AARON HAMMERSTROM

What part of the Sonic *comics do you create?*

I do pencils and lines for the inside stories and covers, and sometimes colors, too!

Who's your favorite Sonic *character in the IDW books?*

I'd say it feels like cheating to say Sonic, but I mean… he's why we're all here in the first place, right? Besides him, definitely Tangle!

How do you take your chili dog?

In a hypothetical fashion. Never had one!

How did you first discover Sonic?

From one of those LCD games you'd get in Happy Meals around when *Sonic Heroes* came out. It was the Tails one, where you're flying and collecting rings. I remember thinking his second tail was some kind of mistake or error, and wondering what he was collecting. Doughnuts? Bagels? Onion rings?

What was the first IDW Sonic issue you worked on?

My first cover of my own was for #21, but I technically helped with a cover for issue #1.

What's a boring fact about yourself?

One of my favorite birthday gifts I ever got was a clipboard. I wanted it so I could draw when I didn't have a desk or other surface to draw on.

What's your favorite comic (besides Sonic*)?*

Paranatural is what really got me into comics, though it's since switched to an illustrated prose format. Still great, though! Besides that, probably *Eyeshield 21* or Archie's *Mega Man*.

What do you do when you're not drawing/working on Sonic*?*

More drawing, usually. I also like pixel art and making low-poly 3D models every now and then. Basically a lot of art stuff and video games.

What's the most unusual Sonic *thing you own?*

An old *Sonic X* action figure of a robot whose pieces were all included with different characters. I never got all the characters, though, so I never got all the pieces of the robot. I think he's missing one arm and one leg.

If you could go to dinner with one Sonic *character, who would it be and why?*

Tails because I have the palate of an eight-year-old, and we could just get pizza or something. And then have mint ice cream after.

What kind of animal would you be in Sonic's universe?

A capybara. They're so chill and rectangular.

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them "OKAY TO PRINT"! And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, this shocking arc comes to a conclusion!

ART AARON HAMMERSTROM COLORS MATT HERMS

ART PRISCILLA TRAMONTANO

ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE